SHINING TIME STATION

"THE TV JEEBEES"

BY

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From characters and storylines created by Britt Allcroft and Rick Siggelkow

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POPULATION OF THE

SCENE 1 (MAINSET)

(ON AN ARCHED WINDOW LEDGE, MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS. HE FILLS HIS LUNGS WITH THE AIR OF A GORGEOUS DAY.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Ah... what a perfect day!

(SOMETHING GETS HIS ATTENTION.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Hello, what's this?

(HE JUMPS DOWN.)

INTERIOR DESK.

(DAN AND BECKY ARE BY STACY'S DESK.)

BECKY:

Let's go see Mr. Malarkey's Traveling Zoo.

DAN:

Let's go to the baseball card show.

BECKY:

...traveling zoo..

DAN:

...baseball card show ...

BECKY:

...zoo...

DAN:

...show...

BECKY:

Zoo!

DAN:

Show!

O.S. VOICE:

HEEEEEEY!

(THE KIDS LOOK AROUND AND THEN LOOK DOWN. MR. CONDUCTOR IS STANDING BETWEEN THEM. HE GOES INTO A BROAD JUMP CROUCH AND... JUMPS ONTO THE COUNTER.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

What are you both fussing about and why are you still inside on a beautiful day like this?

BECKY:

We were deciding where we should go. I think we should go to the traveling zoo.

DAN:

I think we should go the baseball card show.

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Why don't you put it to a vote?

DAN:

...okay.

BECKY:

All in favor of going to the amazing, wonderful exciting traveling zoo say "aye." ... AYE!

DAN:

All in favor of going to the greatest baseball card show in the world -where I hope to get a Dave Winfield -- say "aye." ... AYE!

(ENTER KARA)

KARA:

Hi...

BECKY:

Kara, do you want to go to the traveling zoo with me?

DAN:

Do you want to the baseball card show with me?

KARA:

I want to go on a canoe trip.

DAN & BECKY:

Oh . . .

MR. CONDUCTOR:

It's all settled then: You go to the zoo, you go to the baseball card show and Kara can go on a canoe trip. You don't always have to do the same thing.

BECKY, DAN & KARA:

...Yeah!

MR. CONDUCTOR:

By the way, Becky, the zoo you're going to, would that be Mr. Malarkey's Traveling Zoo which travels from here to Timbucktoo?

BECKY:

Yes...where Timbucktoo?

is

KARA:

I'll look it up on the atlas.

(KARA RUNS INTO BILLY'S OFFICE TO GET THE ATLAS.)

BECKY:

You just have to mention someplace Kara doesn't know and she runs to the atlas to look it up.

DAN:

Kara loves looking up places on the atlas.

(KARA RETURNS WITH THE ATLAS. SHE LOOKS THE WORD UP IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK THEN TURNS THE PAGES.)

KARA:

Timbucktoo...

INSERT: MAP OF AFRICA
DAN'S FINGER POINTING

DAN (V.O.):

There is it. Timbucktoo.

BECKY (V.O.):

That;s far away.

KARA (V.O.):

It's in Africa. I want to go there one day.

INTERIOR STATION

(MR. CONDUCTOR LOOK AT HIS WATCH.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Whoops. It's later than I thought. I must go far away myself...

KARA:

Can you tell us a Thomas story first.

MR. CONDUCTOR:

I have some very serious, very adult and very tiny railroad business to attend to. THEN I'll tell you a Thomas story.

BECKY:

Okay.

MR. CONDUCTOR:

It's a date. I'll catch up to you over by the old fairgrounds.

(MR. CONDUCTOR DISAPPEARS.)

INTERIOR ENTRANCE

(SCHEMER ENTERS PUSHING A DOLLY ON WHICH IS A HUGE BOX.)

SCHEMER:

Gang way. Coming through. Gimme room. They've arrived. AT last!

(HE LOOKS AROUND TO SEE IF HE'S GOTTEN ANYONE'S ATTENTION. THE KIDS ARE TALKING TOGETHER.)

SCHEMER (LOUDER):

Everybody is going to want to know what is in this box... It's treasure, I tell you!

(HE LOOKS OVER AGAIN.)
(NO REACTION.)

SCHEMER:

I hate to have to share this.

(HE LOOKS OVER AGAIN.)
(NO REACTION.)

SCHEMER:

But share I must...

(HE LOOKS OVER AGAIN.)
(THE KIDS ARE STILL UNAWARE OF SCHEMER.)

SCHEMER:

HEY!

(THE KIDS LOOK OVER AND WALK OVER.)

KARA:

Hi Schemer. What's in the box?

SCHEMER:

Wouldn't YOU like to know...

BECKY:

Okay..If you don't want to tell us...

(THEY START TO EXIT.)

SCHEMER:

Hey, where are you going?

DAN:

Out.

SCHEMER:

Out!!! What are you going OUT for?

BECKY:

There's a traveling zoo...

DAN:

...a baseball card show...

KARA:

...special canoe rides...

SCHEMER:

Never mind that stuff. You wont want to go ANYWHERE when you learn what's in this box.

DAN:

Okay, what's in the box?

SCHEMER:

The best thing you could ever imagine. Think now... in the whole wide world. What does everybody love the most?

KARA:

Their mothers?

SCHEMER:

NO!...Look...here.
Mothers don't come in a
box...do they? NO! They
don't.

DAN:

Baseball stuff?

SCHEMER:

NO!

BECKY:

...apple pie?

SCHEMER:

NO NO NO! What's the matter with you people? ARe you living in this century or what! Everybody's first love is:

(SCHEMER PULLS A SMALL ONE OUT.)

...television.

DAN, KARA & BECKY:

...oh.

SCHEMER:

Oh. Is that all you can say is "...oh..."

KARA:

Television is no big deal Schemer.

SCHEMER:

"...no big deal Schemer."
Wait till you see these televisions.

DAN:

What's so great about these televisions?

SCHEMER:

They're PAY televisions, that's what's so great about these televisions. And they come with their own chairs!

(HE PULLS A KID SIZE CHAIR OUT OF THE BOX AND ATTACHES THE TV TO IT AND SETS IT DOWN.)

SCHEMER:

THERE!

(STACY ENTERS HEADING TOWARDS HER BOOTH. THE KIDS MEET HER HALF WAY.)

STACY:

Hi everybody. It's such a beautiful day, I thought you'd all be outside. There's so much going on today...

BECKY:

We are Aunt Stacy.

DAN:

Schemer's just showing us the new TV's he got.

STACY:

TV's...well, don't take too long.

KARA:

We won't.

SCENE 2 (ARCADE)

(THE KIDS RETURN.)
(DURING THAT EXCHANGE, THE THREE TV'S AND CHAIRS WERE SET UP.)

SCHEMER:

There are over 600 channels to choose from. Sit.

(The KIDS SIT.)

(SCHEMER STANDS BEHIND THEM WITH THE REMOTE CONTROL, TAPPING THE BUTTON.)

SCHEMER:

See...channels 1,2,3,4,5,6...something for everybody. Here's an interesting channel...

KARA:

What is that?

BECKY:

It looks like the tops of trees.

SCHEMER:

That's the all forest ranger station channel. You can watch the tops of trees alllll day. That's pretty great, huh?

(SCHEMER KEEPS RUNNING CHANNELS.)

DAN:

What's that?

KARA:

Looks like kids sleeping.

SCHEMER:

That's the all napping channel. You get to stay awake and watch other people taking a nap.

BECKY:

Schemer, this is dumb.

KARA:

Yeah...let's go out...

(THEY START TO LEAVE, BUT THEIR EYES STILL WATCH.)

SCHEMER: (SEDUCTIVELY)

Wait, wait, wait...I've saved the best. Look at THISSSSS channel...

(THEY STOP.)

SCHEMER:

It's the all MONKEY channel. Nothing but monkeys, monkeys,

(THEY START TO DRIFT BACK.)

SCHEMER:

or this...the all Saturday morning cartoon shows going all day long channel.

(THEY SLIP BACK INTO THEIR CHAIRS.)

SCHEMER:

Or THIS...This is MYYYY personal favorites...the toy commercial channel...

(THEY SIT SOMEWHAT TRANSFIXED.) (SCHEMER HAS A REMOTE CONTROL TO EACH.)

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SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER: (SERPENTINE)

There...isn't that wonderful? Aren't you happy?

(THE KIDS STARE AT THE LITTLE TV'S AND BEGIN, REMOTE CONTROLS ON HIGH, PUSHING THE BUTTONS.)

SCENE 3 (JUKEBOX)

TITO:

Is it just me or has there been a definite lack of music in everyone's life?

GRACE:

Usually by this time we already played or four songs.

DIDI:

I'm afraid our little pals up there might be getting stuck to the screen.

TITO:

Locked to the box.

GRACE:

Glued to the tube.

DIDI:

Then let's break the mood.

TITO:

Shall we play a little ditty?

GRACE:

Something hot but kinda pretty.

(PUPPET SONG)

(AT THE END THEY ALL LOOK UP TOWARDS THE KIDS FOR A FEW BEATS.)

SCENE 4 (ARCADE)

(THE KIDS ARE STILL ZONED OUT WATCHING THEIR SEPARATE TV's.)

SFX: OUTSIDE COMMOTION

(BILLY ENTERS STATION.)

BILLY:

Hey everybody, you have to come outside and see this.

STACY:

What is it Billy?

BILLY:

You just have to see for yourself...

(BILLY AND STACY EXIT.)

(THE KIDS CONTINUE TO BE TRANSFIXED.)

(BILLY RETURNS.)

BILLY:

Dan, Becky, Kara. Come on out here...the goats got lose from Mr. Malarkey's traveling zoo and they all hopped up on the tops of cars and now everybody has a goat standing on the top of their car. You have to see it...

KARA:
 (absent-minded)

...as...soon...as...this ...show is...over...Billy...

BILLY:

You're going to miss it!

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SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

KARA: (ABSENT-MINDED)

they'll...have...it... on...TeeVee...

(BILLY SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISAPPOINTMENT AND EXITS.)

SCENE 5 (ARCADE)

(TIME HAS PASSED. KIDS CONTINUE TO WATCH TV.)

(MR. CONDUCTOR ENTERS STATION. SEES THE KIDS.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

You're still here?

(MR. CONDUCTOR CROSSES TO THEM.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

I was waiting for you. I thought we had a date.

(THE KIDS CONTINUE TO WATCH.)

(MR. CONDUCTOR JUMPS UP AND STANDS FIRST IN FRONT OF BECKY'S TV, PARTIALLY BLOCKING IT. MR. CONDUCTOR TRIES TO MAKE EYE CONTACT. BECKY KEEPS LOOKING AROUND HIM.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

We were going to meet outside...

(MR. CONDUCTOR JUMPS IN FRONT OF DAN'S TV. SAME THING: DAN TRIES TO LOOK AROUND HIM.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

I was going to tell you a Thomas story...

(MR. CONDUCTOR JUMPS IN FRONT OF KARA'S TV. SAME THING.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Oh look...there's a seven ton elephant over there trying to climb into a pair of my pants...what do you know...

(NO RESPONSE.)

(MR. CONDUCTOR WAVES HIS ARMS AND THE THREE SETS SHUT OFF.)

KARA:

Oh, hi, Mr. Conductor.

BECKY:

Did you just say something about an elephant in here?

MR. CONDUCTOR:

I returned to tell you a Thomas story.

ALL:

Great...good.

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Not here. Over there. These things are starting to give me the willies.

(MR. CONDUCTOR JUMPS UP ON DAN'S HEAD.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Steady, Dan.

(MR. CONDUCTOR RIDES DAN'S HEAD LIKE A SURF BOARD.)

(THEY GO TO THE DESK. MR. CONDUCTOR JUMPS DOWN.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Now that I have your undivided attention...

SCENE 6

(VT: TTE #19)

SCENE 7 (MAINSET)

(BILLY IS LISTENING TO STORY, BUT THE KIDS ARE GONE.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

...sometimes the only thing you CAN do is laugh.

BILLY:

I know what you mean.

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Hey...where are Becky, Kara and Dan?

BILLY:

They're back over there watching more television.

MR. CONDUCTOR:

...they like television more than my stories...

(MR. CONDUCTOR LOWERS HIS HEAD AND SLOWLY WALKS AWAY AND VANISHES.)

BILLY:

Mr. Conductor, wait...

(ENTER STACY. SHE LOOK TOWARDS ARCADE.)

STACY:

That's it. I'm going to go tell those kids if they watch anymore television their eye's start spinning around in heir heads. They are wasting too much time.

BILLY:

Wait...Sometimes the best lessons are the ones you learn by yourself.

STACY:

Do you think they'll grow tired of it?

BILLY:

I think so. You can't beat Real Life...look...

(DAVE WINFIELD ENTERS AND LOOKS AROUND. HE ROAMS OVER.)

BILLY:

You're Dave Winfield, the baseball player, aren't you?

DAVE WINFIELD:

Yes, I am. I was looking for the baseball card show. I want to get a Ken Griffy Jr. Could you give me directions?

STACY:

Well, do you see that boy over there, I think he might know.

(DAVE WINFIELD GOES OVER TO ARCADE. HE LOWERS HIMSELF ON ONE KNEE. DAN IS LOST IN THE TV.)

DAVE WINFIELD:

Excuse me. Could you tell me where I could find the baseball card show. I'm supposed to be there and I lost my directions.

(DAN LOOKS SLOWLY AND BLANKLY AT DAVE THEN LOOKS AT HIS REMOTE CONTROL.)

DAN:

Hey neat! I got Dave Winfield on channel 202.

DAVE WINFIELD:

No, I'm not on TV, I'm really here...

DAN (to Kara):

Put on channel 202 and you can see DAve Winfield. He's the best...

KARA:

I'm watching the all-monkey channel.

(DAVE WINFIELD CROSSES BACK TO ENTRANCE, SHRUGS AND EXITS.)

(KARA LOOKS AT BECKY'S SCREEN.)

KARA:

What are you watching?

BECKY:

The all toy commercial channel.

DAN:

What channel is that?

BECKY:

Channel 400.

DAN:

Oh look...

SCENE 8 (TOY COMMERCIAL)

(THE ANNOUNCER'S VOICE HAS THAT MENACING GRAVELY TONE OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING AND MONSTER TRUCK PULL COMMENTATORS.)

(THE FOOTAGE COULD BE LIFTED FROM A JAPANESE MONSTER MOVIE: TERRIFIED CITIZENS POINTING TO, SCREAMING AT AND FLEEING FROM UNSEEN TERROR.)

(SOUNDTRACK HAS SCREAMING, ROARING AND EXPLOSIONS THROUGHOUT.)

EXT. CITY - DAY

(CITIZENS FLEEING)

ANNOUNCER:

He's billing...he's baaaaack and he's lookin' for somethin'...He's Johnny Tarantula...

(LOOMING OVER A BUILDING, FADED OR CUT INTO THIS FOOTAGE, IS JOHNNY TARANTULA -- THE HEAD OF A TOY HULK HOGAN-TYPE FIGURE AND A BODY MADE FROM A COOTIE SOMEWHAT MODIFIED.)

ANNOUNCER:

He's half boy. He's half spider. He's all indestructible!

(THE ARMY FIRING A BATTERY OF CANNONS.)

ANNOUNCER:

Nothing can stop him.

(CRAWLING VERY QUICKLY OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE.)

ANNOUNCER:

He's powerBUG, He's wildMAN and...

(JOHNNY TARANTULA STOPS, COCKS HIS HAD THIS WAY AND THAT.)

ANNOUNCER:

He's looking for somethin'...

INTERIOR ROOM

(AN INTERIOR WINDOW OF A HOTEL APARTMENT. JOHNNY TARANTULA'S LARGE FACE APPEARS LOOKING IN THE WINDOW.)

ANNOUNCER:

What is he looking for? Maybe he's looking for someone to be his pal.

(JOHNNY TARANTULA MOVES ON.)

EXTERIOR CITY

(JOHNNY TARANTULA PEEKING AROUND SKYSCRAPERS.)

ANNOUNCER:

Get a Johnny Tarantula of your own. He needs a friend and you'll never be lonely or frightened again. Not with Johnny Tarantula on your side.

(JOHNNY TARANTULA STOPS YELLING AND SPITTING FLAMES AT THE PEOPLE BELOW AND TURNS TO CAMERA.)

JOHNNY TARANTULA:

(BRODERICK CRAWFORD-LIKE VOICE)

Will you be my friend?

(A ROCK BOUNCES OFF HIS HEAD AND JOHNNY TARANTULA RESUMES HIS ASSAULT ON THE PEOPLE BELOW.)

ANNOUNCER:

Every REAL boy wants Johnny Tarantula. Every DECENT boy deserves one.

(PRODUCT SHOT: JOHNNY TARANTULA NEXT TO THE BOX WHICH DISPLAYS NY HARBOR AND A FEROCIOUS JT HALF EMERGED FROM THE WATER AND DWARFING THE BUILDINGS.)

ANNOUNCER (QUICKLY):

Get Johnny Tarantula where ever awesome stuff is sold or to order immediately, dial this special toll free number...

(LOWER 3RD SUPER: #1 800 GET THIS)

ANNOUNCER (QUICKER):

All those buildings and screaming people not included.

SCENE 9 (INT. ARCADE)

DAN:

WOW!!!...I want that. I have my baseball card money saved.

(DAN GOES RUNNING TO THE PHONE. DIALS...)

DAN:

Hello....Can I get a Johnny Tarantula?

(INT. ARCADE)

KARA:

He's actually ordering it...

BECKY:

I don't believe he's going to waste his money on that...

BECKY:

Oh look...

SCENE 10 (MISSY FUSSY COMMERCIAL)

INT LIVING ROOM - DAY

(AN ADORABLE FIVE-YEAR-OLD WITH CURLY BLONDE HAIR ENTERS A ROOM AND HER EYES SUDDENLY LIGHT UP. SHE RUNS ACROSS THE ROOM. MISSY FUSSY IS SEATED IN A BIG CHAIR.)

YOUNG GIRL: (SUNG TO 1ST TWO BARS OF FRERE JACQUES)

Miss Fussy Strong and trust-i She's the doll That's just like us-ie

(MISSY FUSSY IS A THREE AND A HALF FOOT TALL 1940'S STYLE CHILD MANNEQUIN. AND PART CHUCKY.)

(THE WOMAN ANNOUNCER LAS A SOFT, WARM, SWEET VOICE.)

MUSIC BOX SOUNDTRACK

(THE CHILD HUGS MISSY FUSSY.)

ANNOUNCER:

Every girl wants Missy Fussy in her home. She's the big adorable baby with so much to say:

MISSY FUSSY:

Did you bring me something today?

ANNOUNCER:

And she needs you...

MISSY FUSSY:

Will you fix my hair now.

(CHILD GETS A BRUSH. AND COMBS.)

ANNOUNCER:

Missy Fussy can say over a hundred and fifty things.

MISSY FUSSY:

Can you make me a new dress? A nice pretty one?

(THE CHILD NODS YES.)

ANNOUNCER:

You will hardly believe how lifelike she is.

(CHILD LOOKS THROUGH A SEWING BOX.)

ANNOUNCER:

She says things that real little girls say...

(THE CHILD IS SEATED SEWING.)

MISSY FUSSY (V.O.):

Change me, hurry.

(THE CHILD QUICKLY PUTS DOWN HER SEWING AND RUNS TO CHANGE MISSY FUSSY.)

(THE CHILD AND MISSY FUSSY ARE SITTING IN A BAY WINDOW TOGETHER.)

ANNOUNCER:

She never runs out of things to say.

MISSY FUSSY:

Clean up my room...please.

ANNOUNCER:

You'll never run out of things to do with Missy Fussy around.

(THE CHILD IS CLEANING UP THE ROOM. PICKING CLOTHES OFF OF THE FLOOR.)

(MISSY FUSSY IS SEATED ON the BUREAU.)

MISSY FUSSY:

Take me outside now... please.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

(THE CHILD IN RUNNING ALONG PUSHING MISSY FUSSY IN A STROLLER.)

MISSY FUSSY:

FAster...faster...

(THE CHILD RUNS PAST THE CAMERA HEADING DOWN THE BLOCK.)

EXT. PLAYGROUND

(CHILD IS PUSHING MISSY FUSSY ON A SWING.)

MISSY FUSSY:

What are we having for dessert tonight?

ANNOUNCER:

Missy Fussy. The doll who speaks her mind.

INT. BEDROOM

(THE CHILD PLACES MISSY FUSSY IN A CRIB. TUCKS A BLANKET AROUND MISSY FUSSY.

(THE CHILD, ACTING LIKE A MARRIED MOM, WIPES HER BROW WITH HER WRIST AND OFFERS AN EXHAUSTED BUT PLEASED SMILE.)

CHILD:

Good night, Missy Fussy. I love you.

(DOORWAY. CHILD TURNS OUT THE ROOM LIGHT AND IS SILHOUETTED IN THE DOORWAY BY A HALL LIGHT.)

MISSY FUSSY:

Leave the hall light on ... please.

(PRODUCT SHOT SUPERKEY IN THE DARKENED PORTION OF FRAME.)

ANNOUNCER:

Every girl wants Missy Fussy.

MALE ANNOUNCER: (QUICKLY)

The size of your television make Missy Fussy appear much larger than she actually is.

(FADE.)

SCENE 11 (INT. ARCADE)

(BECKY AND KARA EXCHANGE AN EXCITED LOOK.)

KARA & BECKY:

Let's get it!

(BILLY AND STACY AT STACY'S DESK.)

STACY:

Do you think they've tired of watching TV yet?

BILLY:

They don't seem to be.

STACY:

It's a wonder their eyes aren't spinning around in their heads. I have an idea! If anything will get Kara away from the TV, this will. Come with me...

(THEY WALK TO THE ARCADE, STAND BEHIND KARA, AND SPEAK FOR HER HEARING.)

STACY:

Billy, I hear it's a long way to Tipparary.

(KARA SHOWS A SPARK.)

BILLY:

Oh yes. A very long way. But STacy, just where is Tipperary?

(KARA TRIES TO REACT BUT THE PULL IS TOO STRONG.)

STACY:

Gee, I don't know... I wonder if ANYone knows where Tipperary is...

(KARA STRUGGLES BUT CAN'T BREAK FREE.)

BILLY:

Kara, where's Tipperary?

KARA:

Ah...I don't know...

STACY:

Do you want to look it up in the atlas?

KARA:

Ah...maybe later, after this show.

(STACY AND BILLY WALK AWAY.)

BILLY:

This is more serious than I thought.

STACY:

We just better put a stop to it.

BILLY:

Maybe you're right.

STACY:

Kids...oh kids...KIDS!!

(STACY GOES OVER.)

STACY:

You've watched enough TV...CAN YOU HEAR ME?

(IN ZOMBIE UNISON, THEY TURN TO LOOK AT HER.)

(STACY'S POV: THE EYES OF THE KIDS ARE LIKE PINWHEELS SPINNING AROUND IN THEIR HEADS.)

STACY:

YYYYYYIIIIII!!!!
That's it. No more TV.

(STACY SHUTS OFF THE TV'S AND PULLS THE KIDS AWAY. THEIR EYES TURN TO NORMAL AS WELL AS THEIR BEHAVIOR.)

BECKY:

Hi, Aunt Stacy.

STACY:

I think you've watched enough television.

KARA:

You're probably right. Hey, we better get going.

STACY:

Where are you going?

BECKY:

I'm going to the traveling zoo...

STACY:

They left town two days ago.

DAN:

I'm going to the baseball card show...

STACY:

It's closed.

KARA:

I'm going on a canoe ride.

STACY:

The canoes were put away.

BECKY:

We missed everything?

STACY:

I'm afraid so.

KARA, DAN & BECKY:

Wow...

EXT ENTRANCE (MESSENGER ENTERS WITH DOLLY ON WHICH ARE TWO HUGE BOXES.)

MESSENGER:

I have a delivery for...Dan...Becky and Kara.

(THE KIDS SHOW EXCITEMENT.)

DAN:

The toys we ordered!

(THE MESSENGER WAVES GOODBYE AND EXITS.)

KARA:

Look at the size of those boxes.

(THE KIDS OPEN THEIR BOXES AND DIG DOWN DEEPER AND DEEPER THOUGH PACKING PEANUTS.)

(DAN TAKES OUT A SMALL PACKAGE THE SIZE OF A BOX OF GREETING CARDS. OPENS IT. IT'S SMALL.)

(KARA TAKES OUT A DOLL THE SIZE OF A CUPIE DOLL.)

DAN:

Johnny Tarantula looked a lot bigger on TV.

BECKY:

Missy Fussy shrunk.

KARA:

She's not saying anything. ...hello?

(BILLY TAKES OUT THE DIRECTIONS. READS FROM A LARGE PIECE OF PAPER.)

BILLY:

Let me see...It says it needs special batteries.

BECKY:

What kind of batteries?

BILLY:

You have to send eight dollars...to...

(HE TURNS THE PAPERS AND LOOKS FOR AN ADDRESS.)

BILLY:

Here it is...to Krakatowa, East of Java.

KARA:

Krakatowa is WEST of Java.

BILLY:

I think you're right.

BECKY:

I hate TV. They sold us junk. They stole our times.

STACY:

They didn't steal your time. You gave it away.

KARA:

But they lied to us.

STACY:

Some people, not everybody, who try to sell you things, tend to exaggerate.

DAN:

What's exaggerate mean?

BILLY:

They'll say it's bigger, and better and more wonderful that it really is. And you just have to know that some people exaggerate.

(ENTER SCHEMER.)

SCHEMER:

Hello happy campers. I have good news and bad news. First, the good news: No more free samples on my pay television. And the bad news is: You're not over there watching. Why?

KARA:

We've had enough TV to last us a while Schemer.

SCHEMER:

This is crazy. What are you going to do? Stare at the floor? What?

(THE KIDS LOOK AROUND.)

DAN:

Hey...look at those boxes.

KARA:

We could make a fort.

BECKY:

And a big dinosaur out of packing peanuts.

KARA:

Great.

SCHEMER:

You're telling me that you can more fun with empty boxes than you can sitting in front of the miracle of television.

DAN:

We can try...

(THE KIDS GATHER UP THE BOXES AND HEAD OUT. MR. CONDUCTOR IS LEANING OUT OF WINDOW, HEARING THIS.)

MR. CONDUCTOR:

Well am I glad to hear that. Three cheers for kids.

(V.O. SCHEMER PLEADING FOR THEM TO RECONSIDER AS THEY EXIT.)

(CREDITS.)